

THE VIKING'S SKULL

A Tale of a Mystery and Its Solution

By JOHN R. CARLING

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Synopsis of Pleading Chapters.

A young English woman, with her young son, took lodgings in a little village in Brittany in order to be near her husband, who was a murderer of which his wife believed him not guilty. A murder took place, and the tradition said had been made by Odin, named in the quarrel with the slain man, and the ring which had been shown to her son. Then she told him the story of his father, and made him promise when he was a man to find out the real murderer and clear his father's name. The same night the murder was committed by a man named Godfrey, who was a friend of the father, and shortly after the convict, Eric Marville, having escaped from prison, was recaptured in the forest and in the fight accidentally shot and killed her. On being taken back to prison he was released and called by friends. This is the prelude to the main story, which begins with the return of Marville to the household of the father of Godfrey, who had not known where his son had been. At his father's death he assumed the title, carried and had a son. To his first wife's son he gave no heed for some unexplained reason, but later heard that he was dead. The second son returned from his travels after completing his education and brought with him a mysterious case, which he showed to the housewife. She watched him convey secretly to the family vault. The girl, who was his wife, to marry young and wealthy cousin, Beatrice, and he returned to the village. It was this cousin's husband, Godfrey, who was the real murderer, and he was the man who had been shown to her son. Godfrey, who was an old friend, bearing, however, the name of Breakpear, was the man who had been shown to her son. Godfrey, who was an old friend, bearing, however, the name of Breakpear, was the man who had been shown to her son. Godfrey, who was an old friend, bearing, however, the name of Breakpear, was the man who had been shown to her son.

CHAPTER XIII.

AT LORELLE'S VILLA.

On the following day Beatrice Ravensgar, with some mistaking, set out for the purpose of making an afternoon call upon Mademoiselle Riviere, or, to use her right title, Viscountess Walden.

Idris accompanied her, nominally as her escort, in reality consumed with the longing to meet Lorelle again. True wisdom told him that he was but tormenting himself in thus seeing her, that the better way was to avoid her altogether; but he found this latter course impossible; he despised himself for his weakness, yet as the moth is attracted by the light so was Idris attracted by the fascinating personality of Viscountess Walden.

On arriving at The Cedars Beatrice was received in a manner so gracious and winning that her misgivings were immediately put to rest.

"We are cousins, you and I," said Lorelle, "and we are affectionately, and must ever be good friends."

Beatrice, quick to read character, could tell that the other was really desirous of her friendship; and as she recalled her unjust suspicion she felt full of a guilty shame, and was almost tempted to fall upon her knees, confess her fault, and beg for pardon.

Aware of the circumstances under which Lorelle and Idris had last parted, Beatrice viewed their greeting of each other with an interest that was almost painful to her, and the viscountess knowing that she was watched, extended to Idris the dignified courtesy that she might have extended to a stranger, though all the time she was inwardly tormented lest Idris should think her unduly cold. None but herself knew how her heart was pulsating beneath her calm exterior. She was not to be blamed, she argued, for the feeling that had sprung up self-originated within her breast. Action and tongue may be controlled; thought never. So long, then, as she controlled her words and action, what more was required of her? What more? A secret voice seemed to say, "Never to see Idris again!"

They sat on the veranda conversing on the most unimportant subjects, and to the charming words and the sweet laugh of the viscountess, and contemplated her beauty, but Idris felt that he was watching her, and that she was watching him. Idris discovered that the murder ring that had been stolen from his mother was emblazoned on the altar window of the church and that was an earnest device of the bar's family. Idris makes love to Lorelle and that Lorelle is a secret married a year before to Lord Walden.

[CHAPTER XII—Continued from Yesterday.]

"On my way home," replied Beatrice, "I had to pass her villa, and whom should I see walking up the garden path towards the house but Ivar himself! He had not noticed me, and I did not make myself known to him; in truth I was so much amazed that I could do nothing but stand and stare at him. Not knowing that he was married to Mademoiselle Riviere, what conclusion could I come to but that—"

And here Beatrice paused leaving her hearers to guess the nature of her conclusion.

"And you thought that of Mademoiselle Riviere?" said Idris; and Beatrice felt deeply the reproach in his tone.

"I have never whispered my suspicion to any one—not even to you, Godfrey."

"The sequel shows the advantage of holding one's tongue," replied her brother. "It has saved you from making a humiliating admission to the viscountess. Well, she knows that she is now your cousin, you cannot do better than acknowledge the relationship by making a call upon her."

But Beatrice shrank from this ordeal.

"I have always shown her by my manner that I dislike her," she must think me an odious creature."

"On the contrary," replied Idris, "whenever your name has been mentioned she has spoken well of you, and has expressed herself as desirous of your friendship. Her visit was thus prearranged in promising that she would pay the new viscountess a visit on the morrow; after which Godfrey, turning to Idris, addressed himself to a new theme."

"I spent this morning," he said, "in my laboratory over that piece of steel taken from your so-called Viking's skull, and I have discovered it to be of modern fabrication."

"Ah! and how do you prove it?" said Idris, preparing to argue the point.

"Chemical analysis shows that the steel contains 2 per cent of platinum."

"What of that?" said Idris bluntly.

"Much. Platinum is a metal of great value, and it is not found in nature. I forget the exact date, some time about the beginning of the nineteenth century, therefore, any steel that is combined with platinum must have been forged within the past two hundred years, and consequently cannot be a relic of Norse days."

"For what purpose is platinum mixed with the steel?"

"To impart additional hardness."

"I must accept your dictum as final. Of course, the conclusion is that if the steel is modern, the skull must be modern, too. I must give up my belief, Miss Ravensgar, that I possess the skull of your Viking ancestor. But then," he added, "Orn was buried within that hillock; the pictured tapestry and the name Ormell prove it. What, then, has become of his skeleton?"

"Crumbled to dust, perhaps, with the lapse of time," suggested Beatrice.

"The skeleton within the hillock," said Idris, "is a modern person," said Idris, "how can it be? Who buried him, and where?"

"We do not yet know that it is a him," interjected Godfrey. "The skeleton may be the remains of a woman."

"I speak provisionally. Who buried him, or her, and why should such a strange grave be chosen?"

"Because," replied the surgeon, gravely, "because my dear Idris, cannot you see that the present occupant of Ormell did not die a natural death? The piece of steel lying in the hillock proves that. He no murdered, murdered with a stiletto hairpin; and he, or they, that did the deed, knowing how to dispose of the victim's body by placing it within the hillock, no doubt being aware that the remains, if ever discovered, would be taken for those of some ancient warrior, an error into which we ourselves would have fallen had the request remained. I might say, provisionally, to tell us otherwise."

"For a few minutes Beatrice and Idris sat dumfounded at this startling theory."

"Heaven! I believe you are right," cried Idris. "And yet this murder-theory of yours is open to objection. There is the body of the murderer, a dead body lying in the hillock. Consider the risk of detection that the murderer would run."

"The murderer," said Idris, "was taken place with in Ormell itself," suggested Beatrice.

"That is my view," replied Godfrey, "for the signs which seem to point to that conclusion."

"What signs are they?" asked Idris.

"You will perhaps think my first reason fanciful," remarked Godfrey. "You have continually maintained, he went on, addressing Idris, "that the dividing room, a downward bend at a certain point in the tortuous chamber. What formed the attractive force? The voice of thy brother's blood cried unto me from the ground! Shall we say that that was the cause? For human blood has been known to exert some standing at that point was suddenly struck down from behind; his natural light in falling would be to clutch at the nearest thing he could lay hold of."

"Which in this case would be the tapestry," interjected Idris.

"Just so; and that is my way of accounting for the tearing of that fabric, and the downward curvature of the rock to which it was attached. The tapestry at the same time became saturated with the blood of the victim."

"Your opinion seems reasonable," remarked Idris, "except as regards the divining of it. I can't believe that dried blood could produce such an effect. But the difficulty remains—what has become of the Viking's bones?"

"And to this question Godfrey could give no satisfactory answer."

"When do you think this murder took place?" Idris asked. "In our own days, or a hundred years ago, or even more," ventured Idris.

"Any period since the era of the discovery of platinum," answered Godfrey.

"Is there no way in these scientific times of ascertaining the age of that skull?" asked Beatrice.

Godfrey shook his head.

"The most skilled anatomist would be

INDIANA STUDENTS TO BECOME LAWYERS TO-NIGHT

Class of Forty-Two Graduates Will Receive Coveted Sheepskins.

ADDRESS BY A. C. HARRIS

One of the largest classes that has ever been graduated from the institution will receive diplomas from the Indiana Law School of the University of Indianapolis at the Grand Opera House to-night, in the tenth annual commencement of that school. The address to the class will be given by the Hon. Addison C. Harris, on the subject of American citizenship. Mr. Harris is president of the board of trustees and will also confer the degrees to the graduating students. The announcement of prizes will be made by James A. Robb, dean of the school. Special music has been arranged for the occasion, a feature of which will be a solo by Louis J. Dochez.

Those who will receive diplomas are Roy Watkins Adney, Earl J. Eskren, Otto Bayse, A. E. Edward William Bennett, Burton Hopkins Bryant, Victor Burk, Otis Monroe Burnett, Hugh Curtis Cline, James Adams Collins, David Franklin Culbertson, James Clarence Curtis, Edward Wolfe Davis, Everett Llewellyn Deupree, Emmett Daniel Dolen, Clinton Ransom Flynn, Horace Lincoln Hanna, Thomas John Hanna, Joseph Crabbs Henderson, Clifford Clinton Keeling, Sumner Kenner, Silas Unnning Kivett, Walter Oliver Lamborn, Orval Edmund Mehning, A. E. James Bamford Merriman, A. B. John Thomas North, Harry Helm Orr, A. B. Ephraim O'Harris, A. B. David Emory Parks, Owen Pickens, B. S. Robert Isaac Pugh, Robert Chester Reid, Roy Elias Resler, James Adrien Roosa, Charles Julius Schuch, A. B. John Vincent Sees, Charles Everett Smith, Kurtz Voe Smith, Raymond Smiley Springer, George Cullen Sullivan, Harry Leonard Unger, Allan Pee Vestal and Robert Hamilton Williams.

NORTHERN INDIANA EDITORS TO MEET

Annual Convention Will Be Held at Lafayette June 16 and 17.

The Northern Indiana Editorial Association will hold its annual meeting on Thursday and Friday, June 16 and 17, at Lafayette, etc. The business session will be held the first day and the programme, which has just been completed, includes the following numbers:

President's annual address, Clay W. Metcater, of the Plymouth Democrat.

"System," P. E. Miner, of the Whitley County News.

"A New World Every Day," Leroy Armstrong, of the Lafayette Democrat.

"Fifty Years of Progress," A. B. Crampton, of the Delphi Times.

"Some Reflections," John D. Hogate, of the Danville Republican.

"The Commendable and the Reprehensible in Newspaperdom," John B. Stoll, of the South Bend Times.

The discussion of these papers will be led by Frank Hainbaugh, of the Muncie Herald-Tribune, and as Beatrice listened to the charming words and the sweet laugh of the viscountess, and contemplated her beauty, but Idris felt that he was watching her, and that she was watching him. Idris discovered that the murder ring that had been stolen from his mother was emblazoned on the altar window of the church and that was an earnest device of the bar's family. Idris makes love to Lorelle and that Lorelle is a secret married a year before to Lord Walden.

G. A. R. Encampment Tickets.

The Central Passenger Association has granted an extension of time for the sale of tickets to the G. A. R. encampment, which will be held June 14 and 15 at Warsaw. The tickets will now be sold on the last day of the encampment and will be good returning until July 15. Tickets of 1 cent a mile, with 25 cents additional, has been made.

RICHMOND BUSINESS MEN BACK NEW INDUSTRIES

Abattoir and Canning Company File Articles of Incorporation with Secretary of State.

The City of Richmond has secured two new substantial business establishments. Articles of incorporation of the Richmond Abattoir and the Richmond Canning Company were filed yesterday in the office of the secretary of state. The former is capitalized at \$40,000 and will operate a slaughtering, meat packing and refrigerating plant. The directors are Antonio Stolle, Jacob Lichtenfels, James Beeson, William S. Ewary and Joseph Stolle.

The Canning company is capitalized at \$20,000. Henry C. Starr, a well-known Richmond attorney and politician, is one of the directors. The other directors are John P. Lancaster, Henry Quatz, Frank M. Clark, Bernard C. Galt, William Galt and Richard A. Davenport.

Other incorporations yesterday were: The Sterling Ice and Fuel Company, of Marion; capital stock, \$20,000; directors, H. J. Martin, C. N. Martin, John Pierce, Elsworth Harvey, Isaac L. Ayers and George W. Kleder.

The Noname Oil and Gas Company, of Muncie; capital stock, \$3,000; directors, George Heath, Charles Johnson, Alvey Davis, Charles Frank L. Gass, John A. Weiss, J. C. Johnson.

The Polk Sanitary Milk Company, of Indianapolis; capital stock, \$10,000; directors, James T. Polk, Ralph B. Polk, Samuel O. Dungan, Charles E. Coffin and Charles E. Holloway.

The Wood Oil Company, of Parker; capital stock, \$10,000; directors, M. F. Wood, E. O. Wood and G. R. Wood.

SQUIRELS DESTROY THE WALNUT GROVE

Squirrels, with an eye and nose to the main chance, are working havoc with the plans of State Forester W. H. Freeman to start a walnut grove in the forest reserve in Clark county. The animals have discovered that the sprouting walnuts are good and that only a little digging is required to provide a square meal, consequently they are making the incipient walnut grove their feeding ground. There is a law against killing animals in the forest reserve, so there is no way to put an end to the devastations of the squirrels.

CITY NEWS NOTES.

The ladies of Meridian-street Church will give a social Friday evening, May 27. All friends are invited.

The Sewing Circle of the Roberts Park Church will meet Thursday, June 2, instead of to-morrow afternoon.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the North Congregational Church will meet this afternoon with Mrs. Earnshaw, 234 North Meridian street.

Defective insulation caused a street car to take fire yesterday afternoon and incidentally caused much excitement. Car No. 516 on the Prospect-street line was discovered to be on fire when it reached Meridian and Washington streets. The blaze was put out before much damage was done.

After being at liberty since March 10, Sidney Ireland, living on Division street, was placed under arrest yesterday by a patrolman. It is alleged that Ireland is one of a gang of four boys who assaulted and attempted to rob Dr. Leeth at the Morris-street bridge on the night of March 10.

Search for Missing Witness.

It is claimed that there was another witness to the murder of Thomas Seibert, who has not yet been apprehended. All that is known of the witness is that it is a woman and she was dressed entirely in black. The police are now looking for the woman who was standing on the corner of Illinois and Washington streets and saw Thomas Hale strike the blow that killed Thomas Seibert.

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Dry Goods, Cloaks, Millinery, Shoes, Rugs, Draperies.

Badger Furniture Co.,
Furniture, Rugs and Draperies.

D. H. Baldwin & Co.,
Manufacturers and Retail Dealers of Pianos and Organs.

Besten & Langen,
Ladies' Suits, Wraps and Furs.

Bliss, Swain & Co., (The Progress)
Clothing and Men's Furnishings.

Wm. H. Block Co.,
Dry Goods, Cloaks, Etc.

The Hobbs-Merrill Co.,
Books and Stationery.

Feeney Furniture and Stove Company,
Furniture and Carpets.

Albert Gall,
Carpets and Upholstery.

Charles L. Hartmann,
Furniture, Carpets and Stoves.

Iske Bros.,
Furniture and Upholstery.

Paul H. Krauss,
Shirtmaker, Men's Outfitter, Hats.

Kahn Tailoring Co.,
Tailors.

George J. Marott,
Shoes.

Charles Mayer & Co.,
The "GIFT STORE," Silverware and China.

W. H. Messenger,
Furniture and Carpets.

L. E. Morrison & Co.,
Trunks, Traveling Bags and Rubber Goods.

The New York Store,
Dry Goods, Cloaks, Shoes, Carpets, Furniture.

People's Outfitting Co.,
Furniture and Housefurnishings.

Rink's Cloak House,
Suits, Cloaks, Furs.

F. H. Rupert,
Furniture and Stoves.

Saks & Co., (The Model)
Men's and Boys' Outfitters.

The Sander & Recker Furniture Co.,
Furniture.

The Star Store,
Dry Goods, Carpets, Cloaks, Shoes, Clothing.

L. Strauss & Co., (The Eagle)
Clothing and Men's Furnishings.

Taylor Carpet Co.,
Carpets and Upholstery.

Vonnegut Hardware Co.,
(Retail Dept.) Fine Cutlery and Plated Ware.

Julius C. Walk & Son,
Diamonds, Jewelry and Silverware.

H. P. Wasson & Co.,
Dry Goods, Cloaks, Millinery, Carpets, Furniture.

When Clothing Store,
Clothing and Men's Furnishings.

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"The Merchants' Association of Indianapolis will refund the ROUND TRIP FARE to persons living within a radius of forty miles from Indianapolis upon the purchase of \$25.00 of merchandise from one member of the Association or from all combined, and

ONE PER CENT. ADDITIONAL CASH REBATE will be allowed on all purchases in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00.)

PERSONS LIVING AT A GREATER DISTANCE than forty miles may have their fares rebated. To illustrate: If you live sixty miles away the Association refunds you forty miles of it both ways, leaving the cost of only twenty miles to you.

Interurban passengers are given entire fare for seventy-five miles both ways, but should ask conductor for ticket or cash receipt, which must be shown at stores where purchases are made.

For Further Information Address **John T. Saulter, Manager, 16 E. Washington St.,** (over Columbia Nat'l Bank) Indianapolis

THE PLAN

ASK FOR A MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION REBATE BOOK In the first store you enter of those named above as members: **insist on having each purchase entered in the rebate book in every member's store you trade, and when through buying present book at 16 East Washington Street, over Columbia National Bank, any time between 8 a. m. and 6 p. m., and get your rebate.** It is all very simple—no extra trouble. Application for rebate book must be made at the time purchase is made.

EVERY LINE OF MERCHANDISE IS REPRESENTED. The Merchants' Association of Indianapolis includes the representative retail stores of the city, and covers practically every line of merchandise needed for family or home use. You may spend \$3.00 at one store, \$10.00 at another, \$8.00 at another and \$4.00 in miscellaneous purchases—there is \$25.00 expended, for which your round trip fare will be refunded.

THE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION GUARANTEES to each customer the fulfillment of the above proposition.

WEST INDIANAPOLIS MAY HAVE BIG SEWER SYSTEM

City Engineer Jeup Will Present Plans to Board of Works To-Day.

After weeks of work and study, City Engineer Jeup has completed the plans of the West Indianapolis sewer, and to-day will present a resolution to the Board of Public Works providing for the construction of the sewer.

The sewer will give drainage to West Indianapolis, which has been without these facilities. Its construction will probably be the biggest undertaking with which the city administration will deal this year. Its cost will be about \$150,000. The drain will be used for sewerage purposes only. The main sewer will begin at the river, in Harding street, and will run north to Washington street, thence to Decatur and Everett and thence to Blooming street and Bank avenue, as far as Calveale street.

The sewer will have many branches, and will drain all the factory district on the west side. Following the resolution for its construction, a number of resolutions for smaller sewers will be presented, so that they can be made at the same time with less cost and difficulty.

Seek Parole for Andrew Koerner.

An effort is being made to secure a parole for Andrew Koerner, serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife, L. M. Rappaport has been employed as attorney for that purpose by relatives and friends of the imprisoned man. Koerner was originally sentenced to hang, but Governor Porter commuted the sentence to life imprisonment. He has served twenty-one years. Koerner was convicted largely on circumstantial evidence, in the face of vigorous protestations of innocence.

Daily Illustrated Joke

Harry West, proprietor of an Okland restaurant, recently burned down, was before Justice Stout yesterday, charged with selling liquor on Sunday. He denies the charge and further alleges that Mrs. Ella Russell, who is bringing the suit, has threatened to burn his place of business. The case is being tried before a jury.

CELEBRATING THE FOURTH

This picture shows how boys at Culver spent the evening of the Fourth. From their big white navy cutters, which gleam with the sparks and colored lights, they shoot candles and rockets over the water to their hearts' content.

Culver Summer Naval School

Culver, (Lake Maxinkuckee) Indiana

Everything in its eight weeks' course contributes to a happy and well spent summer. Makes a boy brave and straight, "hard as nails", and at home on the water. Strengthens weak points in any study. Beautiful location. Extensive equipment. Field track and athletic sports. Special trip to World's Fair. Write for descriptive booklet, beautifully illustrated. Opens June 28th. Closes August 24th.

TAF

25 W. Washington St. Opposite News

\$1,000 paid for spelling

You can easily get one of the cash prizes we are offering for the greatest number of ways of spelling

The word Egg-O-See

To the persons sending us the word Egg-O-See spelled in the most ways we offer \$1,000 in cash, to be paid as follows:

To the one sending the greatest variety of spellings.....\$100.00
To the second sending the greatest variety of spellings..... 75.00
To the third sending the greatest variety of spellings..... 50.00
To the fourth sending the greatest variety of spellings..... 25.00
To the fifth sending the greatest variety of spellings..... 10.00
To the 14th sending the greatest variety of spellings..... 7.50
To the 15th sending the greatest variety of spellings..... 5.00

The prizes will be awarded immediately after the close of the contest.

The contest is open to all. The only conditions are that the lists must be mailed to us on or before June 15, 1904. The spelling must be such as could properly be pronounced "Egg-O-See," and for each five different spellings one of the little folders, (same as used in the school children's contest found on the inside of each package of the food), must be sent in. For instance, if you send in 15 different spellings you must send three of the folders. He who sends the most correct spellings will receive your name and address plainly written on the list of competitors.

You will find it interesting and instructive, and you are permitted to have your friends help you. By doing this you can easily win one of the prizes, which will be distributed as soon after June 15, as we can look over the list of competitors.

Here are a few ways of spelling Egg-O-See: Egg-O-See, Egg-Oh-Cee, Egg-O-Cy, Egg-O-Cie.

These prizes are offered to more thoroughly familiarize all with the merits of Egg-O-See, the purest and best tasting flaked wheat food. The healthfulness and great nourishing qualities of flaked wheat are now generally recognized. Egg-O-See is the favorite flaked wheat food and is rapidly displacing all others, because of its superior quality, and because a full sized package retails for 10 cents.

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IF : : : It should miss delivery, a telephone message will bring you a copy by messenger within half an hour.

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SEALS, STENCILS AND STAMPS.

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STENCILS AND STAMPS

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